

Application Process

To begin the three year program in the fall of 2016, please write a letter of application which includes the following:

- ◇ Your name, mailing address, telephone numbers and email address.
- ◇ Your main interest in the program.
- ◇ Your desire and commitment to participate in the three years of the program.
- ◇ The name of your parish and a description of your current involvement in your parish.
- ◇ A letter of reference from your Pastor that is supportive of your application.

Please submit your application by
June 15, 2016 to:

Lay Formation Program
Cecile Miller, Director
PO Box 100,
Sydney, NS B1P 6G9

Or email:

ccl.mllr@gmail.com



Dates and Locations of Courses for 2016-2017

September 9-11, 2016	St. Joseph Renewal Centre Mabou
October 21-23, 2016	Bethany Retreat Centre Antigonish
November 25-27, 2016	Bethany Retreat Centre Antigonish
December 9-11, 2016	Bethany Retreat Centre Antigonish
January 13-15, 2017	St. Joseph Renewal Centre Mabou
February 17-19, 2017	St. Joseph Renewal Centre Mabou
March 3-5, 2017	St. Joseph Renewal Centre Mabou
March 31- April 2, 2017	St. Joseph Renewal Centre Mabou
May 5-7, 2017	St. Joseph Renewal Centre Mabou
June 10-12, 2017 Retreat	St. Joseph Renewal Centre Mabou

Annual Fees

The fee for each year of the Lay Formation Program is \$1400.00. Candidates participating in the Program will receive \$1000.00 from the Diocese of Antigonish to assist them in their studies.

Candidates are responsible for travel expenses and the cost of their books.

Additional financial assistance can be sought from the [St. Thomas More Society](#), a society which assists in funding lay Catholics of the Diocese with formation and education programs. Application forms or any further information can be obtained by emailing liturgy@dioceseofantigonish.ca.

Diocese of Antigonish

Lay Formation Program 2016-2019

*Questions but no answers?
Challenged to be all you can be?
Looking for something new in your
relationship with Jesus?*

*“... put out into the deep and let
down your nets for a catch...”
Luke 5:4*

As adult Catholics we are called by our Baptism to become disciples of Christ. For many of us learning about our faith stopped when we were in high school. Yet there is so much more! Catholicism is rich in tradition, provides a wisdom for everyday life and is worth a deeper look.

The Lay Formation Program provides people the opportunity to be intentional disciples of Christ, women and men who can speak from an informed and prayerful heart and put that knowledge into action where they live and work.

Lay men and women hear and answer the universal call to holiness primarily and uniquely in each and every one of the world's occupations and callings and in the ordinary circumstances of social and family life which, as it were, form the context of their existence. All of the baptized are called to work toward the transformation of the world. By working with their spiritual leaders, the lay faithful can experience a strengthened sense of personal responsibility, a renewed enthusiasm and an appropriate application of their talents for the building up of the Church.

(based on Lumen gentium, nos. 30, 33, and 37)

The Lay Formation Program invites us to a journey of authentic and deeper discovery of faith. Participants will be joining with candidates for the Permanent Diaconate, taking courses that will renew faith and assist them to see their call in the world.

What participants can expect from a Three Year Lay Formation Program

- ◇ Ten weekend sessions, including one Retreat Weekend per year
- ◇ Another course on one additional Saturday per month
- ◇ Each weekend will include human, intellectual, spiritual and pastoral elements
- ◇ Courses provided over the three years will include:

Theological Foundations
Moral Theology
Vatican II
Scripture
Catechism of the Catholic Church
Catholic Social Teaching
Church History
Canon Law
Christology
Ecclesiology
Ecumenism
Lay Spirituality
Collaborative Ministry
Presiding
Prayer
Liturgy
Sacraments
Personal Development
Public Speaking

What the Lay Formation Program requires from participants

- ◇ Prior and ongoing active parish participation
- ◇ Faithful attendance and participation in class
- ◇ Critical reflection on course materials
- ◇ Completion of required readings and assignments
- ◇ Attention to a deeper prayer life
- ◇ A one-hour conversation with a trained spiritual director four times a year

Prayer of Discernment

*Walk with me, good and loving God,
As I journey through life.
May I take your hand
And be led by your Holy Spirit
Fill me, inspire me,
Free me to respond generously to your call.
For I believe You desire my deepest joy
And it is only in Your company
That my soul will be satisfied
And my life will find
Its meaning and purpose.
Amen.*

“As sharers in the role of Christ, the laity have an active part to play in the life and activity of the Church”

(Apostolicam actuositatem, The Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, no. 10)